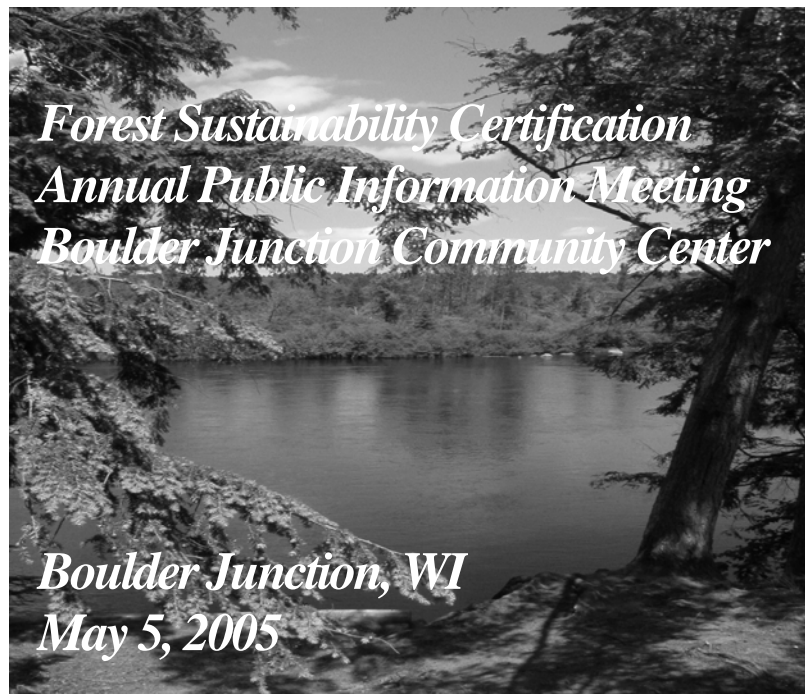


State Forest Annual Report 2005

Northern Highland - American Legion State Forest



From the desk of the NHAL State Forest Superintendent

Executive Summary by Dennis Leith

In the day-to-day management of this Forest, it sometimes seems like we are “spinning our wheels.” That’s why it is refreshing to look back and see what we have accomplished in the past year.

As usual, our recreation areas were busy. To many visitors the NHAL represents the “Up North” experience that our users cherish. We have heard from thousands of visitors that they want to keep the North – the North. That is what we are trying to do. Hundreds of thousands of visitors each year enjoy hiking, biking, canoeing, hunting, camping, etc. on the NHAL.

Vast acreage, miles of trails, countless lakes and diverse natural communities provide abundant recreational opportunities. The NHAL is also one of Wisconsin’s hardest working forests, and provides a year round source of jobs and forest products. The practice of sustainable forestry is at the core of everything we do on this property. Sustainable Forestry has present and long term benefits for Wisconsin and beyond. State forests have a great heritage of forestry that is evident today. What we do now will ensure the future with a healthy, productive and sustainable forest.

The following reports will share what we accomplished this past year, and highlight some of our goals for 2005. As always, your comments are welcome, we value your input concerning the management of your state forest.

Forest Management

Jeff Olsen

Forest Management 2004/2005

The winter of 2004 was average for snowfall and the forestry staff got good use of their snowshoes. The winter logging activity was very light and gave us time for inventory and new sale establishment fieldwork. Spring and early summer are the busiest time of the year for timber production. Much of the staff’s time is now spent in sale contract administration and site visits.

The forestry staff on the NHAL now has all positions filled and we had 2 LTE foresters to help out with catch up of our fieldwork inventory. At full staffing we are Forestry Supervisor, Jeffrey Olsen, six Senior-Foresters, Dean Farr, Cal Doering, Paul Schultz, Craig Dalton, Todd Anderson and Jim Wetterau. One Forestry Technician-Advanced, Roberta Kunzman and our two LTEs, Scott Sullivan and Luke Lorenzoni. Our Financial Program Assistant is Marci Jahns. That is our team and we also get help from Area Rangers and Technicians that contribute to our operations on the Forest.



The NHAL State Forest holds two bid openings each year to sell our timber sales. The first weeks in May and November are our target dates. In 2004 we sold 26 tracts of 3038 acres that held an estimated 58,497 cords for a value of \$2,876,364. These sales have 1, 2 or 3 year contracts for completion. We close out and track revenues and sale completion acres on active sales annually. Markets, weather and access can all effect when sales get worked on and completed. Revenues for 2004 were \$2,065,248. This also includes firewood, Christmas trees, boughs and misc. sale permits.

Tree planting and site preparation acres in 2004 were 162. We are planning for about 400 acres in 2005 summer planting. We hand plant all trees on sites that are disk trenched for jack pine, red pine and white pine. The target is for 910 trees planted per acre.

State Forest Master Plan

Bob Dall

Update – NHAL State Forest Draft Master Plan & EIS

The Northern Highland-American Legion (NHAL) State Forest is currently in the public review phase of the master planning process. A Draft Master Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was officially released to the public on March 29, 2005.

Background and Purpose of the Draft Master Plan and EIS

Given the size and complexity of a 225,000-acre forest, revising the master plan for the NHAL was no small matter. Ecologically, the forest is an extremely diverse assembly of natural communities and resources. It contains 930 lakes, 338 miles of streams, numerous native communities, wild and scenic resources, and abundant wildlife.

People from all walks of life, from near and far, take a keen interest in the forest and its stewardship. Public demand for benefits and opportunities derived from the forest is high and increasing. The forest sees more than two million visitors each year. Throughout the planning process these “stakeholders” were involved in identifying management issues and providing their input and suggestions for the future of the forest.

While keeping an eye on forest “sustainability” the Draft Master Plan and EIS addresses a range of issues. Defining and pursuing the goals and objectives of the master plan is a balancing act. This involves maximizing the forest’s productivity and preserving its unique qualities while satisfying public needs and minimizing user conflicts.

The master plan is designed as a tool to inform the general public and users of the forest and to guide resource experts in the forest’s management. When approved, the plan will be active for the next 15 years before undergoing revision and review.

Environmental Impact Analysis

The Master Plan's Environmental Impact Analysis determined that the proposed plan would cause no significant adverse physical, biological, cultural or economic impacts.

Implementation of the proposed plan would:

- Have significant positive ecological benefits by maintaining and expanding protection of critical ecological communities, habitats and species,
- Have a positive economic impact on local tourism and the forest product industry,
- Have a positive social/recreational impact by maintaining a full range of recreational opportunities, expanding facilities for high demand uses, and through maintaining the forest's high quality scenic values,
- Have neutral to positive effects upon local governments and taxpayers, as state aids-in-lieu-of-taxes offset property tax revenues,
- Pose low overall potential for increased environmental risk

Management Categories Addressed

- Recreation
 - Non-motorized trails for biking, backpacking, cross country skiing, hiking and snowshoeing
 - Motorized trails including a proposed experimental ATV trail, and maintaining snowmobile trail miles
 - Proposed changes and additions in campsites and campgrounds
 - Proposed Bittersweet Lake quiet recreation area
- Land Management
 - Management of upland forest and wetland cover types, native community, old growth forest, forest production and passive management areas
 - Designated state natural areas
 - Scenic resources
 - Rustic road
- Lake designations
 - Proposed changes in wild, wilderness, scenic, and non-motor lakes
- Boundary Expansion proposals
- Road management
- Non-metallic mining
- Public access
- Wildlife
- Fisheries
- Communications plan
- Administrative provisions

Public Review

More than 1500 individuals who previously participated in the master plan received at least one form of the Draft Master Plan & EIS via direct mail. Availability of the Draft was announced to the media, and the public is invited to participate in upcoming public meetings and hearings (See Opportunities for Public Involvement below).

Multiple ways are provided for individuals to participate in the public review. A summary overview of the plan is also available in print. The complete Draft is available in print, on CD ROM disc or on-line at: http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/master_planning/nhal/

Written comments to the master plan should be directed to State Forest Superintendent, Dennis Leith. People can provide verbal testimony during any of the public meetings scheduled in May. The deadline for receipt of comments is June 1, 2005.

Opportunities for Public Involvement

Each public meeting will begin as an informational “open-house” at 3:30 PM. A portion of each meeting is scheduled as a formal public hearing from 6-8:00 PM.

Tues., May 3, 2005

Neenah Public Library
240 E. Wisconsin Ave.
Neenah, WI 54957

Wed., May 4, 2005

Fitchburg Community Center
5510 Lacy Rd.
Fitchburg, WI 53711

Thurs., May 5, 2005

Boulder Junction Community Center
5386 Park St. (just off Co. Hwy. M)
Boulder Junction, WI 54512

Mon., May 9, 2005

Wausau Park Inn
2101 N. Mountain Rd.
Wausau, WI 54401

To obtain copies of the
Draft Master Plan and EIS contact:

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Rhineland, WI 54501
715/365-8993
Robert.Dall@dnr.state.wi.us

To submit questions and comments
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8770 Hwy. J
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Final steps in the Master Plan process

- Public Review Period (March 29 to June 1, 2005)
- State Forest Review of Public Comments and propose amendments to plan
- Presentation and Approval by the Natural Resources Board
- Implementation by the State Forest

Forest Ecology and Research

Forest Health

Dean Farr & Colleen Matula

The first half of March, the opening of the meteorological spring season (March through May), was relatively chilly across Wisconsin after an unseasonably warm winter season (December through February). While average temperatures have been below normal, precipitation totals across the state have also been below normal. However, several large late-season snowstorms across central Wisconsin have brought the winter's snowfall totals to near normal even after a slow start to the winter snow season.

Because El Niño conditions are weak in the Pacific Ocean, the official spring outlook issued by the Climate Prediction Center indicates that northern Wisconsin and neighboring states in the western Great Lakes stand a much better than even chance for experiencing a cool (below normal) spring (running from April through June) of 2005. So perhaps a snapshot of last year? If perhaps the weather conditions are similar to last year, we can expect the various fungal diseases such as anthracnose, tar spot and armillaria outbreaks.

We shall see...

The timing of this report is such that it is difficult to predict with any degree of accuracy which forest pests will become a problem this year on the forest. There are however two primary insects which can be addressed at this time.

The jack pine budworm, which showed signs of spotty defoliation on the forest last year, will probably continue to be a problem in 2005. Outbreaks of this insect usually last from 4-5 years. Since last year was the first year of any significant rise in population levels of this insect, we will probably see a continued rise in the population levels for this year. Some stands that saw only partial defoliation last year may see increased levels of defoliation this year. It is also expected that some areas that were not affected last year, may become affected this year. This pattern will continue until the population collapses. Surveys for this insect will again be taken to monitor population levels within the jack pine type and recommendations will be made for stands where salvage operations need to be conducted.

One new insect pest that has not been a problem so far on the forest is the gypsy moth. This insect, which was introduced to North America in 1869, has steadily been expanding westward across the U.S. By the 1990's, it had spread to the eastern part of Wisconsin and has now established itself in the eastern part of the NHALSF. Population levels are still low enough that we are not detecting any major defoliation from it at this point in time.



Since we are still a number of years away from any major problems that gypsy moth may cause, a management plan is currently being developed that will help to address the potential impacts of this insect on the forest. The plan includes such things as background information of the insect, current insect level conditions and trends, landscape and regional considerations, property level considerations, tools for managing outbreaks and selection of sites for treatment and suppression of outbreaks. This plan will help us to make wise management decisions now, that will help reduce the negative impacts from this new major insect pest heading our way in the near future.

Forest Ecology and Research

Colleen Matula

The Fall 2004/winter 2005 field season highlights for ecology and research on the NHAL focused mainly on old growth and non-native plant species.

Once again during Earth Week in April, over 100 students from all over the state will participate in controlling invasive plant species on the forest. In partnership with Trees For Tomorrow and Conserve School, the students will help remove Asian honeysuckle, Japanese barberry and purple loosestrife at Star Lake once again. With help from citizen groups, schools and other volunteers it makes short work of this undesirable job. In addition to the control work, invasive plant inventories will continue to occur on the state forest throughout the year.

In the area of research, WDNR Forest Ecologist Karl Martin in partnership with the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Forest Service, will be implementing a long-term project that focuses on attributes of managed old growth on the NHAL and Flambeau River State Forests and also on the National Forest properties. In October, organized field marking camps will occur at each site. The foresters involved in the project will prepare and mark various stands on the forest incorporating canopy gaps, snags and coarse woody debris in the timber sale. This will be a unique project that compares various methods and help in developing old growth recommendations for future timber sales.

Forest Fire Control

Phil Theiler

Fire Prevention

Spring Fire Season came early to Northern Wisconsin this year with the sudden melting of winter snows in early April. Warm and dry conditions this year, have forced fire crews to be prepared earlier than normal to respond to any fire calls in the Headwaters Area, which includes the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest. To date fire crews have responded to over 90 reportable fires in the Area (Vilas, Oneida, Lincoln, Langlade, and Forest Counties). Fortunately, fires have been kept small resulting in minimal damage to personal property and forest resources due to quick response by DNR Fire crews and local Volunteer Fire Departments.

On April 14, one particular fire was detected and reported by fire towers burning on State Forest lands near Lake Tomahawk. DNR Fire personnel from both Woodruff and Rhinelander responded and despite gusty winds, using two tractor-plows were able to contain the fire to four acres in size. State Forest Rangers assisted as to the cause. The cause of the fire has yet to be determined, but the case remains under investigation.

Early detection of fires and a quick response continue to be the key to reducing the threat to human life and reducing damage to the forest resource. Fire Staff will continue to monitor fire conditions and be prepared to respond as needed.

This past winter the Headwaters Area held a Fire Simulation Training session. This fire exercise simulated a large fire where an Incident Command Team was activated to manage a large forest fire. Incident Command Teams are composed of staff from across all Department (DNR) functions as well as Fire Department personnel, local Law Enforcement, and



Department of Emergency Management Directors. This type of simulation training is valuable in preparing to successfully coordinate the response in the event of a large forest fire.

Fire prevention is a big part of the success in preventing forest fires on the State Forest. State Forest Rangers and Technicians will be presenting fire prevention programs throughout the Spring and Summer months at campgrounds, schools, and local libraries to help spread the Fire Prevention message.

Wildlife Management

Linda Winn



Annual Wildlife Management Activities on the NHAL State Forest

- **Habitat Management:**
Wildlife biologists provide recommendations for wildlife habitat management through the timber sale program. Biologists review forest stand composition, strive to maintain tree species and forest stand diversity, maintain and regenerate red oak, and maintain uncommon forest habitats. Other critical aspects are forest stand structure, maintaining snag & den trees, and maintaining reserve trees in clearcuts. Biologists also provide recommendations for managed old growth timber sales. Wildlife openings are maintained through mowing and hand cutting.
- **Wild Rice:**
Wild rice beds are maintained and enhanced through beaver control and protection.

- **Surveys:**
Biologists conduct or organize surveys of forest game populations, including deer, bear, ruffed grouse, and woodcock. Annual ruffed grouse inventories are conducted at the Stone Lake Grouse Management Area for research. Rare and endangered wildlife were surveyed, including bald eagles, osprey, wolves, great blue herons, and trumpeter swans.
- **Master Plan:**
Wildlife biologists assist and are involved in all aspects of the NHAL Master Plan.
- **Flowage Management:**
Five flowages are maintained and managed on the NHAL State Forest: the Little Bear Creek, Brandt Lake, Mann Creek Flowage, the Ristow Flowage, and the Stevenson Creek Flowage. These areas provide valuable habitat for wildlife, and wild rice is maintained on Mann and Stevenson Creeks.
- **Public Information:**
Biologists provide technical information on wildlife populations and habitats to forestry staff and the public. Hundreds of inquiries are received from the public annually regarding wildlife in general and wildlife nuisance complaints.

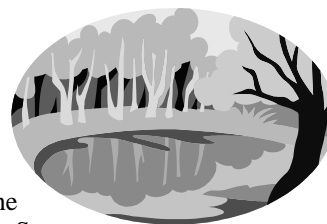
Land Management

Sonja Margitan

Land Management History

The nucleus area of the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest has been under intensive forest protection longer than any other forested area in the state. "In 1904, the Commissioners of Public Lands, in accordance with the laws of 1903 (the first forestry law), set aside a forest reserve of some 40,000 acres in Forest, Oneida and Vilas Counties. In 1904, upon my (E.M. Griffith's) request, the Commissioners of Public Lands added 20,000 acres in Iron County. The legislature of 1905 added to the state forest reserve, all state lands north of Town 33, and in June 1906, Congress passed Senator LaFollette's bill granting to the State of Wisconsin for forestry purposes, 20,000 acres of vacant government land. Thus, in a little over two years, the forest reserves have grown from 40,000 to 254,072 acres."

The preceding was taken from the first report of the State Forester, E.M. Griffith, in 1906, published in the NH-AL State Forest 1982 Master Plan. It briefly covers the beginning of the state forests systems, as we know them today.



From these forest reserve lands, the state legislature established the Northern Highland State Forest in 1925, and the American Legion State Forest in 1929. They were managed as separate properties until 1968 when they were combined into one administrative unit for economic reasons.

Today, the Northern Highland American Legion State Forest is Wisconsin's largest state owned property, with an acquisition goal of 226,200 acres. The state forest owns approximately 225,000 acres within a 345,000 acre boundary and approximately 112,300 acres of privately owned or other lands are also contained within our pristine forest.

Land Management

Because of the size and complexity of this property, a Land Control Specialist is on staff at the Trout Lake Forestry Headquarters in Boulder Junction. The purpose of this position is to advise the Forest Superintendent on land control issues and keep the Superintendent apprised of all land program initiatives. Other primary duties include:

- ⌘ Administration of private landowners contacts for acquisition of land within the forest boundaries.
- ⌘ Complete necessary property and boundary inspections required and resolve land trespass issues.
- ⌘ Represent the forest on all questions regarding land-surveying disputes and administer and process contracts for private surveying services.
- ⌘ Process all land covenants such as easements, access permits and land use agreements affecting the NH-AL State Forest.

The NH-AL State Forest receives many requests for easements, permits and land use agreements, which can restrict the Department's future management options, limit the public's full use and enjoyment of the land, and prevent natural succession of cover types. Requests on Department property are carefully considered and discouraged where practical alternatives are available. All requests deserve careful consideration, on how public use and future management of the land may be affected. In the management of the NH-AL State Forest, it is sometimes necessary to allow privileged use of state-owned land.

The 2004/2005 season has been very busy in the NH-AL State Forest. Several major trespass issues and boundary disputes have been settled. Plus, many minor trespass issues have been resolved, thanks to the help of the state forest Rangers (Law Enforcement).

A couple of major projects that have been in the planning stages are scheduled for construction this season. Paved bike trails will be built in the Townships of Plum Lake and St. Germain, mostly running within county highway(s) right-of-way.

- ⌘ Plum Lake's paved bike trail will connect with the Boulder Junction paved bike trail, from Crystal Lake/Muskellunge Campgrounds, running along old CTH N & CTH N to Hwy. 155 (downtown Sayner). A portion of the trail will run outside of the ROW and that land use area will be covered under a Land Use Agreement. This segment of trail will cross Plum Creek, where a clear span bridge will be constructed. Funding has been approved from a DOT Enhancing Grant and from the DNR Stewardship Fund.
- ⌘ Pending funding, plans are also proposed for a paved bike trail in the St. Germain area. This would be a two-phase plan to eventually link the trail to Sayner.
- ⌘ The township of Manitowish Waters has a paved bike trail. A portion of their trail is covered under a Land Use Agreement.
- ⌘ The township of Boulder Junction also has a paved bike trail. Their Land Use Agreement is in the process of being renewed, which also covers a portion of the new parking lot located off CTH M & N intersection.

The sport of bicycling is enjoying a revival here on the state forest and all over the Northwoods. This is a great opportunity for the Department to continue a partnership with local townships and provide recreational opportunities to those who visit the NH-AL State Forest.

Real Estate Acquisition

Landowners within the state forest boundary will be contacted periodically by Department staff to explain the Department's land acquisition program and to see if they have an interest in selling their property. Acquisition priorities within the state forest vary from year to year based on a variety of factors, such as resource management or recreation needs and available funding, but acquisition is always based on the landowner's willingness to sell or donate their property.

The NH-AL State Forest acquired two large land purchases. The first land purchase was from Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company (WVIC) and the second land purchase was from Plum Creek.

The state purchased 5,875.1 acres from WVIC and 5,167.4 acres are within the NH-AL State Forest project boundary. The first phase of non-project lands closed in May of 2004 and the second phase of project lands & gift lands will be closed at a later date. The primary feature of this purchase is the state obtained 63 miles of shoreline and associated backlands around the Rainbow Flowage and Pickerel Lake. There are 4,951 acres of surface waters on these two waters located in the interior of the state forest.

The state purchased 2,821.22 acres from Plum Creek and 1,186.77 acres are within the NH-AL State Forest project boundary. Parcel 1 – 749.2 acres is located in Vilas County, Parcel 2 – 40 acres is located in Oneida County, Parcel 3 – 234.96 acres is located in Oneida County and Parcel 4 – 162.61 acres is also located in Oneida County. Last but not least, I look forward to the rest of the 2005 season and the completion of the new NH-AL State Forest Master Plan..

Maintenance and Development

Bob Schepper

Accomplishments 2004-2005

This year was as busy as any for the Maintenance Staff on the Northern Highlands American Legion State Forest. The Fishtrap Lake Dam was repaired and hopefully will stay in good repair for the next 25 plus years. This year the Sprite crew was utilized for work on water based and land based trails. We again used several Boy Scout troops to assist with brushing and erosion control projects. We also receive several days of assistance from local summer camps.

Major projects completed were the erosion control and campsite encroachment problems in the Clear Lake campground. Both forest personnel and the McNaughton prison crew worked on the project. Erosion control was done at the West Star Lake Campground beach as well as Razorback Lake campground. The forest built 15 new steel gate to be placed in areas requiring them. A program of pit toilet maintenance has been ongoing with many buildings receiving a new coat of paint and other hardware repairs. All inspections were done in a timely manner.

The Sport Fisheries crew remained busy repairing docks, launches and parking areas. Several small projects of new asphalt on some of the landings were done. There are 60 plus landings

on the forest that this crew repairs and maintains. The crew does brushing, hazard tree removal, mowing and signage on all sites.

Accomplishment Goals 2005-2006

All inspections will be done as required. We will again be using project moneys for campsite encroachment, repairing canoe campsites and work on buildings.

A major goal for this year is to plant campsite screening foliage of dogwood and hazelnut in Clear Lake campground. This will hopefully provide some privacy between campsites. We will be working the newly acquired Rainbow Flowage into our program. We look forward to providing user opportunities on this beautiful acquisition.

We will also be doing more erosion and encroachments work in several of the campgrounds. One other major project for this year is replacement of pit toilets in the Carrol Lake boat landing area.



Willow Flowage Scenic Waters Area

Tom Shockley



Introduction

With limited development and access, the Willow Flowage is a large, irregularly-shaped, island studded reservoir that holds a wild flavor. The property is located in west-central Oneida County and includes 83 miles of shoreline (95% of which is undeveloped), 106 islands, and 7 boat landings. Acquired in two large purchases in the late 1990's, the entire property now encompasses more than 18,000 acres of land. There are 34 rustic campsites scattered around the property's shoreline and on the islands that offer breathtaking views and quiet solitude. Campsites are occupied on a first-come, first-served basis with no registration fees and no reservations. Designated as an Outstanding Resource Water in 1997, the Willow Flowage supports a diversity of aquatic plants, fish, and wildlife. Abundant walleye and panfish populations, along with northern pike, muskellunge, and large and smallmouth bass,

make fishing the primary draw. White-tailed deer, bear, ruffed grouse, ducks, geese, loons, and even wolves roam the area.

Forestry

An active forestry program is in place on the Willow Flowage to promote wildlife, emphasize forest diversity, and to promote a natural and aesthetically pleasing appearance. The predominant timber type on the Willow is aspen (just over 50%) with the majority of trees falling into the seedling/sapling category. There are also nearly 2,000 acres of pine types (red, white, and jack) in various stages of growth. Pine thinnings will be an annual occurrence to maintain stand health and vigor. Future harvests and thinnings of selected stands and occasional prescribed burns will help restore the shoreline to older forest conditions dominated by long-lived tree species such as red and white pine. In the Willow's backcountry, an active sustainable forestry program will help ensure a steady supply of forest products while creating and maintaining critical wildlife habitat.

Four new timber sales were established in 2004 and a fifth (previously established) was sold. Two of the five sales were completed by September 1st. Another on-going, previously established sale was completed in early 2004. This unique sale was an aspen thinning that included several new silvicultural strategies for aspen management. Research plots will be established in the aspen thinning to monitor both residual growth and regeneration.

A new timber sale, established during winter 2005, is currently being advertised for sale with other offerings from the Northern Highland - American Legion State Forest. This sale consists of 80 acres of pine and 25 acres of aspen and occurs in an area where the short-term plan is to promote pine development. Because of this, the aspen stand will be thinned to hinder sprouting; this, in turn, will provide the established pines in the understory an opportunity to gain height and vigor. Several more timber sales are scheduled for establishment during the 2005 season.

In 2004, 30 acres were burned on Indian Point in an effort to naturally regenerate red and white pine. This area is in a portion of the flowage known as the 'Native Community Management Area' where mechanical scarification is not permitted. Since the objective for this area is to convert stands dominated by aspen and other short-lived species to red and white pine, prescribed burning is an effective option. Several plots have been established to monitor pine regeneration in burned areas. The 2004 burn was extremely successful in eliminating the low shade (hazel brush and red maple) that hinders pine regeneration. A direct-seeding project was completed in the burned area to help white pine become established. Over 8 pounds of white pine seed was spread over 15 acres. Several more prescribed burn blocks have been established in this area for the spring 2005 season. Weather permitting, we will treat another 20-30 acres with this effective tool.

Property Development Projects

In late summer, 2004, a road-renovation project was completed at the west-end of Iron Gate Road. This road will provide hunters, hikers, mountain bikers, and anglers with a high-quality access trail. The road will also serve as an access point for future timber harvests and will be used for numerous law enforcement-related activities.

An erosion control project began in early 2004 on two of the flowage's campsites. Various species of native willow saplings were collected from a U.S. Forest Service plantation and planted (via water-jetting) on eroding sandy banks. The willows established effectively and grew well over the summer. Similar projects are planned for this May.

Facility maintenance is an on-going project on the Willow. Twice a year, campsites and other public use areas (boat landings, parking lots, and gates) are inspected to ensure visitor safety.

Last year, over 40 hazard trees were removed at campsites throughout the flowage. Hazard tree removal for the 2005 season has already begun and will be complete before the opening of the fishing season.

Trail mowing for the 2004 season took place in September before the small game and bow-hunting seasons opened. Over 10 miles of trails were cleared of tall grass and brush.

A boat landing renovation project is planned to begin this year at two of the flowage's most popular landings; the Dam Landing and the North Dam Landing. The parking facilities at both of the landings will be expanded and paved. In addition, drinking water and an accessible toilet building will also be added. The engineering phase of the renovation has been funded and will begin in 2005. Construction should begin (and be completed) in 2006.

A new Ranger will be patrolling the waters and backlands of the Willow Flowage this season. Kelly Moermond was hired in March, 2005, and began work on April 25th. Kelly will be in charge of the law enforcement program on the Willow and will also coordinate maintenance projects and annual inspections. Kelly brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the program and we greatly look forward to working with her.

Fisheries Management

Mike Vogelsang

NHAL Lakes Surveyed During the 2004 / 2005 Season

Year	County	Lake	Survey Type
2004	Vilas	Allequash	Monitoring
2004	Vilas	Apeekwa	Monitoring
2004	Vilas	Big Muskellunge	Monitoring
2004	Vilas	Upper Gresham	Monitoring
2004	Vilas	Jag	Monitoring
2004	Vilas	Little John	Monitoring
2004	Vilas	Little Spider	Monitoring
2004	Vilas	Lost Canoe	Monitoring
2004	Vilas	Mann	Monitoring
2004	Vilas	Papoose	Monitoring
2004	Vilas	White Sand	Monitoring
2005	Vilas	Big (Hwy K)	Musky
2005	Vilas	Big Arbor Vitae	Comprehensive/Creel
2005	Vilas	Dead Pike	Comprehensive
2005	Vilas	Found	Walleye Stocking Eval
2005	Vilas	Lost Canoe	Walleye
2005	Vilas	Manitowish Chain	Walleye / Musky
2005	Vilas	Papoose	Musky
2005	Vilas	Sparkling	Walleye Stocking Eval
2005	Vilas	Star	Walleye
2005	Vilas	Trout	Musky
2005	Vilas	White Sand	Comprehensive
2005	Oneida	Carrol	Walleye / Musky
2005	Oneida	Madeline	Walleye / Musky
2005	Oneida	Clear	Walleye / Musky

2005

Oneida

Tomahawk

Musky

To submit questions and comments or learn more about state forest activities contact:

Dennis Leith, NHAL State Forest Superintendent

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Photos: WDNR